

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

WE, **John E. McLaughlin, Neocles G. Athanasiades, and Toh M. Meng** declare that we are citizens of the United States of America, residing respectively at **3 Country Lane, Lake Grove, NY 11755; 6 Mayeck Dr., Setauket, NY 11723; and 15 Sunflower Dr., Hauppauge, NY 11788** and that we believe we are the original, first inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for this a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**"PROTECTING APPARATUS FOR USE WITH TELESCOPING SUPPORT MEMBER"**

which is attached hereto.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification including the claims.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to be material to patentability as defined in Sec. 1.56. We further declare that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by is or my legal representatives or assigns.

We hereby appoint Frank L. Hart, Patent Office Reg. No. 25,340, telephone (918) 254-8202, my attorney, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected with this application. Please address all correspondence to:

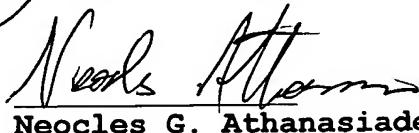
Frank L. Hart  
9811 S. 73rd East Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74133

We hereby declare that all statements made herein to be of our own knowledge and true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



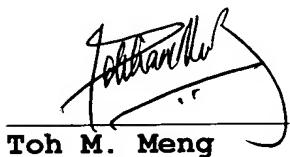
John E. McLaughlin

8/20/03  
(date)



Neocles G. Athanasiades

8/20/2003  
(date)



Toh M. Meng

8/20/2003  
(date)

Post Office Addresses:

Same as above.